

unavoidably prevented from following the inclination of my heart to put my self at the head of the army. That was why I entrusted you with the command-in-chief of all the land and sea forces.

"Under the eyes of all Russia your imperial highness has given proof during the war of a steadfast bravery which has caused a feeling of profound confidence and called forth the sincere good wishes of all who followed your operations."

**Surprise to Russian Public.**

The change in supreme command of the army came as a surprise to the general public, although it had been rumored for several days in army circles.

The Novoe Vremya, the only newspaper which has commented on this subject, says:

"Our insolent foe has now received a worthy answer to his projects. The Russian emperor has placed himself at the head of the military forces and hopes of the Germans for peace are turned to dust and ashes. For more than a year the chief command of our army has been vested in Grand Duke Nicholas, whose name will forever remain graven in the heart of every Russian soldier."

**Czar in Command of Army Is Regarded as an Answer To Recent Talk of Peace**

LONDON, September 8.—Emperor Nicholas is now in supreme command of the Russian military and naval forces in the fighting zones, and Grand Duke Nicholas, who as commander-in-chief of the Russian army was one of the most conspicuous figures of the European war, has been transferred to the Caucasus.

London is speculating as to what section of the long eastern front will be selected by the emperor for his headquarters. At the present moment Courland appears to be the critical sector of the line. Gen. Ruzsky is in command there, and the Russian army is making great progress against him.

The central sector has been held by Grand Duke Nicholas, and efforts of the Germans to drive a wedge through the swamps are proceeding very slowly. The Russian wing, in command of Gen. Ivanov, is making a stubborn stand against the Austrians and Germans, who are engaged in a tremendous effort to drive the last Russian from Austrian soil.

**Speculation as to Command.**

What military general or whether the general staff now will assume the active leadership of Russia's hard-pressed forces is not announced in the emperor's order relieving the grand duke of his important post.

Thursday last Gen. Alexiev was appointed chief of the grand duke's staff. Some military commentators hazard the guess that upon his shoulders will devolve the command of the Russian army.

The removal of Grand Duke Nicholas came as a great surprise to England, where during the last few weeks he had received constant praise for his extricating his armies from the Teutonic grip.

At the winter is approaching and the Austro-German forces are moving more slowly, it was believed that the emperor would assume the command. Other difficulties he had accomplished all that was humanly possible in the circumstances. His transfer, therefore, was a clear and definite mark of the most important change of command in any army during the great war.

In time of peace, Grand Duke Nicholas is invested by law with the honorary command of the army and navy, and it is assumed this post in person did not at first bring with it any intimation of impending important changes.

**To Inspire Russian Troops.**

It was then thought of as noteworthy principally for its moral significance and the impression which it would make on the Russian troops with their eyes turned to the emperor's staff and had determined to carry the war to a successful conclusion. London newspapers took this view until receipt of the news from Petrograd that the emperor had assumed the command.

It is the general impression here that Emperor Nicholas will not determine the course of the war, but will follow to be followed, but will trust the destinies of his armies to the chief of the general staff.

**Seek To Seize Railroads.**

Weather conditions, which in past weeks have been efficient allies of the Russians, are again intervening on their side. A dispatch published in a Copenhagen newspaper says the rivers have been swollen by autumn floods to such an extent that they promise to form an impassable barrier to a further advance of the invaders.

This dispatch represents the immediate objective of the Austro-German campaign to the seizure of the entire railway system of Russia. The dispatch, thus insuring control of lines of communication for a further penetration of the Russian territory.

The correspondent at Petrograd of the Exchange Telegraph Company says:

"The decision of Emperor Nicholas to take chief command is regarded as the most important step in the Russian peace proposals, and as indicating clearly Russia's determination to bring victory to herself and her allies."

**Announced by Grand Duke.**

PARIS, September 8, 2:35 p.m.—The text of the order of the day issued by Grand Duke Nicholas transferring command of the Russian army to the emperor is forwarded by the Petrograd correspondent of the Havas News Agency as follows:

"Valiant army and fleet: Today your august supreme chief, his majesty the emperor, has decided to take command in person. I bow before your heroism of more than a year, and express to you my sincere admiration and sincere appreciation."

"I believe steadfastly that because your emperor himself, to whom you have taken such a deep interest, will display achievements hitherto unknown. I believe that God from this day will accord to our arms a powerful aid, and will bring to him victory."

**In Taking Army Command Czar But Follows Tradition of Ruling House of Russia**

The action of Emperor Nicholas in transferring his cousin, the grand duke, to the Caucasian front is perhaps the most important change of this nature which has been made by any of the beligerent nations. The only comparable precedent was the transfer by Emperor William in October of last year of Lieut. Gen. Count Helmuth von Moltke as chief of the German general staff.

The post to which Grand Duke Nicholas has been transferred is of relative unimportance as compared with the prestige and varied powers of his office as commander-in-chief of all Russia's great fighting forces. The Caucasian campaign presents only a minor aspect of the war. The Russian and Turkish forces involved in the struggle in the Black sea region are not large.

Although there was heavy fighting in the Caucasus, the Russian forces have been conducted in a more satisfactory manner for several months, as both of the nations involved had no available forces in other quarters.

It is worthy of note that the removal of the grand duke has followed very

shortly upon the invasion of Russia proper by the forces of Germany and Austria and Hungary. Since the capture of Warsaw the invaders have forced their way into Russia proper, and the Russian army has been driven back to the Dnieper.

The Russian emperor has placed himself at the head of the military forces and hopes of the Germans for peace are turned to dust and ashes. For more than a year the chief command of our army has been vested in Grand Duke Nicholas, whose name will forever remain graven in the heart of every Russian soldier."

**Idol of His Men.**

Grand Duke Nicholas has been described as the idol of his men in the field and it has been said he virtually held the army in the palm of his hand. But this popularity evidently did not find a reflection among Russian officers, particularly those of high rank.

The grand duke has treated his officers with marked severity. His punishments of them have been swift and hard and he has made no distinction between the lowly subaltern or the man of high rank and political influence.

An individual worker himself, he has demanded much from the men around him. Any one who shirked was packed off to the front. This course brought out a certain amount of ill feeling against the grand duke in bureaucratic circles in the Russian capital. In return the grand duke is credited with having just cause for complaint at the manner in which the administration at Petrograd failed to support his men with arms, ammunition, provisions and hospital supplies. It is said that the grand duke has been frank and direct to a degree seldom heard of in imperial Russian circles.

**Second Cousin of Czar.**

Grand Duke Nicholas is a second cousin of the emperor. He took an active part in the Russo-Japanese war, making a distinguished record. He was made a distinguished member of the council of national defense of the Russian empire in 1906. In that year an unsuccessful attempt was made upon his life at Krasnoe Selo, and this was followed by another such attempt while he was on a railroad train.

He was appointed commander-in-chief of the Russian army in the field in August of last year, virtually coincident with the outbreak of hostilities. The grand duke was born in 1858. His father was a grand uncle of the present emperor.

**President Carries Copy of R. Emperor's Order.**

(Continued from First Page.)

he would present the ambassador's explanation to the President. It is known that the President has been told that the statement that he had acted on instructions of his government as making the President's position in the matter of the Russian peace proposals, and that he was acting for himself.

After spending fifteen minutes with Secretary Lansing the President started back for the White House. The State Department corridor by that time was crowded with reporters, and a glimpse of the President on such an unusual occasion. No attempt was made to keep the President's movements secret, and he was surrounded by correspondents, who asked about his talk with the Secretary.

**"Nothing New," He Says.**

"The state is not trembling," he said. "I just brought over some papers of a routine nature, which ordinarily I could have sent over. There is nothing new at all."

President Wilson was asked if there was anything new in connection with Ambassador Dumba's case. "The Secretary is handling that," he replied.

Then, surrounded by the secret service, he went to his study, and down stairs and across the street to his office by the same route as he came.

**Carried Dumba Letter.**

Later it was learned that the papers which President Wilson took to Secretary Lansing included a copy of the letter which Mr. Dumba had sent to the President. The letter was carried by the British secret service men. Photographs also have been sent to the State Department by Ambassador Dumba in London.

After the President had returned to the executive offices White House officials said the visit to the State Department would not be discussed further.

Ambassador Dumba in the meantime had called on Secretary Wilson of the Department of Labor in connection with his proposed employment for any Austrian subjects who might leave their places in the United States as a result of the publication of the decree threatening punishment. Secretary Wilson was not at his office and the ambassador returned to his quarters in the Russian embassy at Lenox, Mass., later today.

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PHOTO IS OF SCENE FOLLOWING THE ARREST BY BERSAGLIERI TROOPS OF AN AUSTRIAN SNIPER AND SPY. HE WAS CONDEMNED TO DEATH AND SHOT SOON AFTER. THE SNIPER'S DAUGHTER IS SEEN CRYING.

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"Whereas it has pleased Almighty God in His infinite wisdom to call to Himself a loving husband and father and our true and loyal friend, and fellow-worker, Richard A. McLean, of the State of New York, who died Sunday morning, September 6, 1915, at his late residence, 112 1/2 street northwest, this afternoon, Rev. A. F. Anderson of Calvary Baptist Church officiating. The interment, which was private, took place at Glenwood cemetery."

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**Services Today at His Late Home, With Interment in Glenwood Cemetery.**

Funeral services for the late Richard A. McLean, for nearly fifty-two years an employee in the composing room of the Evening Star, will be held today at his late residence, 112 1/2 street northwest, this afternoon, Rev. A. F. Anderson of Calvary Baptist Church officiating. The interment, which was private, took place at Glenwood cemetery.

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**Several Foreign Envoys Given Their Passports by the United States**

Students of diplomatic relations declare that the United States has several precedents in the matter of the possible recall of Dr. Constantin Theodorides, the Austrian secretary of state, when President Washington asked for the recall of the French ambassador, M. de Selves, in 1793, and to this country by the French citizens.

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**NEW ASSOCIATION OF LIBERALS AND PROGRESSIVES DISPLACES THE CONSERVATIVES.**

Organization Comprising Liberals and Progressives Displaces the Conservatives.

Same Conditions There as Have Prevailed Along the United States Line.

**ENEMIES OF CABRERA TRY TO STIR TROUBLE**

Resent Southern President's Participation in Pan-American Peace Proposals.

Diplomatic interest in the Mexican situation today shifted to conditions along the border between Guatemala and Mexico, which are reported to be very much in the same class of border raids as those which have existed along the border between the United States and Mexico, with the result that an official said today, that there can only be renewed interest in the Pan-American peace proposals.

**Regarded as Significant.**

The Novoe Vremya has retained through the last fifteen years a reputation as a weather vane. Its support of the new democratic majority, therefore, is regarded as highly significant.

Debate in the long on the military censorship took a wide range in view of renewed reports that the conservatives were working secretly for dissolution or prorogation. Prof. Paul N. Mikulof declared the formation of a liberal majority in the Mexican congress would bring about a solution of the question of power, provided the duma remains alive.

**Opposes Dismissal.**

"Popular instinct feels this," he continued, "and the people hear with deep concern all rumors of a dismissal of the duma. I believe the people understand that in these circumstances dismissal would be political madness. Let those who are agitating it know, therefore, that if the duma is prorogued, it will be a clear indication of a few weeks, perhaps in a different frame of mind. Let the duma go on calmly and quietly with its work."

**P. O. CLERKS CONSIDER SERVICE RESOLUTIONS**

National Federation in Session at San Francisco Discusses Resolutions to Be Asked.

SAN FRANCISCO, September 8.—The resolutions committee of the National Federation of Post Office Clerks in convention here had before it today for consideration resolutions which are to be reported back to the convention with recommendations for action.

**Those in Charge.**

Mrs. Milo B. Atkinson had charge of the campaign. Included among those who assisted in it were Mrs. J. Stuart, Miss Ruth McGowan, Mrs. J. Reed, Miss Frances Brady, Mrs. J. Hunter, Mrs. Mitchell, Mrs. K. Holmes, Miss F. Abbott, Mrs. Chamberlain, Mrs. M. Miles, Mrs. Andrew Anderson, Mrs. E. Johnson, Mrs. Charles Dalglish, Mrs. Kempson, Mrs. A. Young, Mrs. J. H. Smith, Mrs. A. Hughes, Mrs. M. Lindgren, Mrs. J. W. Smith, Mrs. C. Bradbury, Miss Mercer Smith, Mrs. C. L. Barnett, Miss Carr, Miss Hooper, Mrs. H. H. Butler, Mrs. J. W. Smith, Mrs. F. Farrington, Miss Arthur, Mrs. J. Briggs, Mrs. R. E. Briggs, Mrs. P. Briggs, Miss Hinton, Miss S. Davis, Mrs. P. Briggs, Mrs. E. H. Clapp and Mrs. S. Artz.

**RETURN OF MIDSHIPMEN FROM THE PACIFIC COAST**

Practice Cruise Ends at Annapolis Following Trip From San Francisco via Panama Canal.

Special Dispatch to The Star.

ANNAPOLIS, Md., September 8.—The battleships Missouri, Wisconsin and Ohio, comprising the midshipmen's practice cruiser squadron, Rear Admiral Fulham in command, are steaming up the bay and will arrive off Annapolis at 4 o'clock this afternoon. They have been on a practice cruise, ending the summer cruise, which rode them to the San Francisco exposition and back via the canal. Immediately upon arrival of the squadron the several hundred midshipmen will disembark and start on their annual vacation, which will extend to October 1, when the next academic term begins.

**NOT IDENTIFIED AS ROBBER OF MRS. ARMOUR'S HOME**

Melville Reeves, Known to the Police as the "Skyscraper Burglar," Is Detained, However.

CHICAGO, September 8.—Mrs. J. O'Brien Armour today failed to identify Melville Reeves, known to the police as the "skyscraper burglar," as one of the men who robbed her home Monday night. Reeves' resemblance to one of the masked robbers caused his temporary detention.

**WREATH FOR FALLEN POEMAN.**

German Aviator Pays Tribute to Pegoud, Whom He Killed.

BELOFT, France, September 8.—A German aviator, flying at a great height, appeared last evening over the French frontier. He was seen to drop a wreath, which bore the inscription: "To Pegoud, who died like a hero—his adversary."

**ECONOMY IS TO BE THEME OF COMING CONFERENCE**

President Wilson and Senate and House Leaders to Consider Public Expenditures.

Economy in appropriations is to be the subject of a conference between President Wilson and Senate and House leaders before Congress convenes in December. It is learned that the President